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Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

## **Report of the Fifth Annual Meeting Second Part**

**10 - 13 May 1999  
Tokyo, Japan**

**Report of the Fifth Annual Meeting**  
**Second Part**  
**10 - 13 May 1999**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

Representatives of the Governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand met in Tokyo from 10 to 13 May 1999 for the Resumed Fifth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna ('CCSBT5(2)').

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting**

Mr Yasuo Takase, the chair of the Commission, welcomed the delegations from Member countries and observers from the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of South Africa and Taiwan. Mr Kenji Kagawa from Japan was identified as the observer from the Commission for the Conservation for Antarctic Marine Living Resources ('CCAMLR'). The list of participants at CCSBT5(2) is contained in **Attachment A**.

Australia and New Zealand welcomed Mr Kaminokado as the head of the Japanese delegation following the retirement of Mr Ishida.

*1.1 Adoption of the Agenda*

Japan proposed that a new item on "CITES" be added to Agenda Item 10. The meeting adopted the agenda as amended (**Attachment B**). The list of documents tabled at CCSBT5(2) forms **Attachment C**.

*1.2 Appointment of Rapporteurs*

The Secretariat undertook the role of rapporteur.

*Opening Statements*

Australia, Japan and New Zealand presented their opening statements. All Parties noted that a number of important issues would need to be resolved at CCSBT5(2), including seeking to reach agreement on an experimental fishing program, progressing arrangements for the accession of non-Parties to the Convention and stabilisation of the Commission's work program. All Parties indicated a desire to work cooperatively to reach agreement on the issues before the Commission.

**Agenda Item 2: Experimental Fishing Program**

The Chair of the Joint Experimental Fishing Program Working Group ('EFPWG'), Dr Annala, summarised the work of the EFPWG, noting that the EFPWG had met four times between February and April 1999 and expressed the appreciation of the Working Group to the valuable contribution from the three external scientists. The four reports from the EFPWG were tabled for the Commission records.

Members continued efforts to agree on the design of a possible experimental fishing program during the course of the meeting. While agreement was reached on a number of elements of an EFP, full agreement on a program for 1999 could not be reached before the adjournment of the meeting. Members undertook to establish arrangements to progress outstanding issues through out-of-session consultations.

### **Agenda Item 3: Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation**

Members noted that this matter would be considered further when outstanding EFP issues had been resolved. Pending resolution of these outstanding issues, Australia and New Zealand advised that they would restrain national catches to the most recently agreed levels, being 5265t for Australia and 420t for New Zealand. Japan also advised that it would restrain its national catch to a level which would be advised at a later date.

### **Agenda Item 4: Report from the Scientific Committee**

Consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Commission.

### **Agenda Item 5: Trade Information Scheme**

Members discussed the development of a trade information scheme and expressed concern that while they had reduced their catches substantially, the level of non-member catch has steadily increased.

The Parties agreed to hold a workshop in Japan for 3 days in the week commencing 26 July 1999. To this end, a contact group was established consisting of Dr Bray (Australia), Mr Endo (Japan) and Ms Geddis (New Zealand), to prepare for the Workshop. The agreed agenda for the workshop is shown as **Attachment D**. Members undertook to consider the paper proposing provisional ideas for a scheme distributed by Australia in October 1998, and provide comments for discussion at the workshop by 30 June 1999.

Australia stated that the introduction of a trade information scheme was important and that in the longer term, the development of a trade certification scheme would be fundamental to ensuring the effective operation of the Commission in achieving its conservation and management objectives. Australia noted also that the importance of developing a trade certification scheme was recognised by the Commission at CCSBT 5 (1). Australia noted that other international fisheries management bodies have developed trade certification schemes, and that further work should be undertaken by the Commission as a matter of urgency.

Australia reaffirmed its commitment to finalising arrangements for the implementation of a trade information scheme by the end of 1999, recognising that there were a number of technical and practical issues to be settled, including ensuring consistency with WTO requirements.

New Zealand also considered that a scheme to obtain better information about SBT through trade was an important step in securing the effective conservation and management of the stock. New Zealand confirmed its commitment to the development of such a scheme, with a view to its implementation by the Commission by the end of 1999.

Japan acknowledged that illegal, uncontrolled and unreported fishing was adversely affecting proper management of the SBT stock and the introduction of a trade information scheme would be an effective measure to help address this issue. Japan noted also that a number of fundamental and technical issues still needed to be settled and while it could not commit to introduction of the scheme by the end of 1999, it would make its best endeavors to settle issues concerning the scheme as soon as possible.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Relationship with Non-members**

Members reiterated their grave concern that catches by non-members were adversely affecting the proper management of the SBT stock and called on non-members to either join the Commission or cooperate with its management measures, as soon as possible. The Members indicated that the cooperation of all counties and entities fishing for SBT was vital to the CCSBT and those industries dependent on the resource.

Japan advised that bilateral discussions had been held recently with representatives from Korea and Taiwan on this matter. However, Japan noted that no firm commitments were received.

The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that as a responsible fishing nation, it wished to cooperate with the CCSBT to achieve proper management of the stock. However, the Republic of Korea noted that its industry was concerned that membership would result in an unacceptable reduction to the level of catch through the allocation of quota by the CCSBT. Therefore, Korea sought favourable consideration of its position and undertook to continue to seek to cooperate with the CCSBT in SBT management.

Taiwan advised that its long term objective was to be granted membership of the CCSBT. However, pending resolution of that request, Taiwan indicated that it would continue to cooperate with the CCSBT by restraining its catch levels to 1450 tonnes per year, participate in any agreed trade information scheme, and work with the CCSBT to address the issue of fishing by flag of convenience vessels. Taiwan indicated that if membership was not seriously considered, it would be difficult to maintain full cooperation with CCSBT management arrangements in the long term.

Members noted the advice provided by the Republic of Korea and Taiwan and indicated that the CCSBT would continue to discuss the outstanding issues with them with a view to facilitating CCSBT membership or formal cooperation with management arrangements, as soon as possible.

Separate discussions between Commission representatives and, the representatives of Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan were conducted during the course of the Meeting and records of discussions of these meetings were tabled (**Attachment E, F and G** respectively).

**Agenda Item 7: Arrangements for Data Management**

Consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Commission.

**Agenda Item 8: Report from the Compliance Committee**

Consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Commission.

**Agenda Item 9: Work Program for 1999**

Consideration of this item was deferred.

**Agenda Item 10: Other Business**

Consideration of this item was deferred.

**Agenda Item 11: Close of the Meeting**

It was decided to adjourn the meeting on the understanding that all members would be available to continue discussion, as appropriate, to seek to resolve outstanding issues concerning the EFP, as quickly as possible.

Yauso Takase  
Chair

## **List of Attachments**

Attachment A	List of Participants
Attachment B	Agenda
Attachment C	List of Documents
Attachment D	Trade Information Scheme Workshop in July 1999
Attachment E	Record of the Bilateral Meeting between Representatives of the Commission and Indonesia
Attachment F	Record of discussion between the representatives of the Republic of Korea and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCBST)
Attachment G	Record of Discussions between the Commission and Representatives of Taiwan

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1. Opening of Meeting
  - 1.1 Adoption of the Agenda
  - 1.2 Appointment of Rapporteurs
2. Experimental Fishing Program
3. Total Allowable Catch and its Allocation
4. Report from the Scientific Committee
5. Trade Information Scheme
6. Relationship with Non-members
  - 6.1 Korea and Taiwan
  - 6.2 Indonesia
7. Arrangements for Data Management
8. Report from the Compliance Committee
9. Work Program for 1999
10. Other Business
  - 10.1 CITES
  - 10.2 Others
11. Close of the Meeting
  - 11.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 1999
  - 11.2 Adoption of Report of Meeting
  - 11.3 Close of the Meeting



**List of Documents**

CCSBT/9905/

- 1 Provisional Agendas
- 2 List of Participants
- 3 List of Documents
- 4 (not presented)
- 5 Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (by Australia) : Attachment 28 of CCSBT5(1) Report
- 6 Import Statistics of SBT by Japan
- 7 Australia's Provisional Ideas for a Trade Document Scheme for SBT:  
CCSBT/9902/11
- 8 Letters sent to non-members concerning a trade certification scheme
- 9 Letters sent to Korea and Taiwan
- 10 Arrangement for Data Management
- 11 Draft Standard Structure for Member's Annual Compliance Reports (by New Zealand): Attachment 12 of CCSBT5(1) Report
- 12 Proposed Draft Agenda for the meeting of the Compliance Committee at CCSBT6:  
Attachment 12 of CCSBT5(1) Report
- 13 CCSBT Draft Work Plan for 1999: Attachment 34 of CCSBT5(1) Report
- 14 Amendment of Financial Regulations
- 15 New Zealand Comments in Secretariat Paper CCSBT/9902/13: "Relationship between the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT Convention) and the UN Agreement of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNIA)"
- 16 Record of Discussion between the Commission and Indonesia
- 17 Record of Discussion between the Commission and Korea
- 18 Record of Discussion between the Commission and Taiwan

CCSBT/9902/Rep.

- 1 Report of the Third Meeting of the Ecological Related Species Working Group
- 2 Report of the Trade Information Scheme Workshop
- 3 Report of the First Meeting of the Stock Assessment Group
- 4 Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
- 5 First Joint Experimental Fishing Program Working Group Meeting (EFPWG(1)) -  
Record of Discussions and Work Plan
- 6 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

CCSBT/9905/Rep.

- 7 Second Joint Experimental Fishing Program Working Group Meeting (EFPWF(2))  
- Agreed Record of Discussions
- 8 Third Joint Experimental Fishing Program Working Group Meeting (EFPWG(3)) -  
Agreed Record of Discussions
- 9 Fourth Joint Experimental Fishing Program Working Group Meeting (EFPWG(4))  
- Agreed Record of Discussions
- 10 Report of the Compliance Committee

**TRADE INFORMATION SCHEME WORKSHOP IN JULY, 1999**

**I. Purpose**

To consider and progress a Trade Certification Scheme for SBT

**II. Agenda**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of rapporteurs
4. Discussion of administrative and legal requirements
  - a) Trade Information Scheme objectives
  - b) Consideration of questions arising from Workshop 1
  - c) Consideration of statistical documentation proposed by Australia
  - d) WTO implications
  - e) Consideration of other implementation issues
5. Consideration of Trade Information Scheme Specification
6. Future Schedule
7. Other Business
  - a) Preliminary consideration of a Trade Certification scheme for SBT
8. Adoption of Report and recommendations to CCSBT on implementation of a Trade Information Scheme for SBT
9. Closing of Meeting

**RECORD OF THE BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE COMMISSION AND INDONESIA**

**MITA KAIKAN, TOKYO, 12 MAY 1999**

**Participants**

**Mr Peter Yuile**, First Assistant Secretary, Fisheries and Forestry Industries Division, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia

**Mr Hisashi Endo**, Deputy Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Policy Planning Department, Fisheries Agency, Japan

**Dr Talbot Murray**, Pelagic Project Leader, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd, New Zealand

**Mr Rismansyah Danasaputra**, Agricultural Attache, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

**Record**

Mr Yuile reiterated appreciation for Indonesia's attendance at CCSBT 5 as an observer. Commission members were in agreement on the need for effective management and conservation of the SBT fishery, including through accession to, or cooperation with, the Commission by non-members. The separate bilateral meetings with non-members should be seen as an indication of the importance the Commission attached to this issue. Indonesia took a significant amount of SBT in the form of by-catch. The Commission was therefore keen for Indonesia to accede to the Convention on mutually advantageous terms as soon as possible. Australia and other Commission members had a number of ideas on a package which could assist Indonesia's accession, and wished to commence discussions to this end as soon as possible.

Mr Danasaputra expressed appreciation for the Commission's invitation to Indonesia to attend CCSBT 5 as an observer. He referred to Indonesia's opening statement (**Annex 1**) in the plenary session the previous day. Indonesia was aware that the SBT spawning ground was located in its waters, and was therefore deserving of priority status in research activities. He agreed that SBT was a by-catch of Indonesian long-liners whose principal focus was bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Indonesia was grateful for the Australian CSIRO's cooperation in monitoring activities for SBT. Indonesia was certainly keen to support and cooperate with the CCSBT, but it was of the view that there was room for improved links between the IOTC and the CCSBT. Having said this, however, Indonesia would welcome discussion on the Commission's package for accession to the Convention.

In response to Mr Yuile's question, Mr Danasaputra said that a visit to Jakarta or Bali by CCSBT representatives would be appropriate following the Indonesian general election

on 7 June. The key contact on the Indonesian side should be Mr Untung Wachyono, Director-General of Fisheries in the Department of Agriculture. Mr Untung had participated in CCSBT 3 as an observer, so he had some experience on the SBT issue.

Mr Yuile asked Mr Danasaputra to convey to the Indonesian Government the Commission's wish to discuss Indonesia's early accession to the Convention. The Commission's Secretariat would serve as the major conduit for communication, and would contact Mr Untung in the near future on this issue. Australia would be pleased to help facilitate dialogue with Indonesia if the other Commission parties were agreeable.

Notetaker: Mr Derek Brown, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

**Opening Statement by Indonesia**

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for giving us the floor.

I was just recently informed by Jakarta that I was to represent Indonesia at this conference. Accordingly, on behalf of the Indonesian Government, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the CCSBT Secretariat and member countries, for inviting Indonesia to this important conference as an observer.

It is considered that the Southern Bluefin tuna (SBT) is a by-catch in Indonesian tuna long-line fisheries where, based on population size, the Yellowfin tuna is the main species constituting the tuna stock. The Southern Bluefin tuna is more likely to be caught by tuna long-liners specifically designed for and aimed at Bigeye tuna. It should be noted that of all the 553 tuna long-liners based in Benoa and Bali, none are catching Southern Bluefin tuna.

Indonesia is very grateful to the CISRO for the monitoring activities it carries out together with the Indonesian Research Institute for Marine Fisheries. We anticipate that these activities will develop into a more in-depth research collaboration. The logbook system that has just been started is now being applied in Indonesia. With this kind of effort, we can expect to have improved information on the Southern Bluefin tuna.

Indonesia is aware that the CCSBT considers a part of Indonesia's waters to be a spawning ground of the Southern Bluefin tuna and deserving of priority status in research activities. On the basis of this understanding, significant efforts are being made, including, among others, securing national funding for research on Southern Bluefin tuna and, of course, seeking internationally funded and collaborated research activities.

Considering that the Southern Bluefin tuna belongs to the tuna species, we are also of the view that more efficient management of the Southern Bluefin could become part of the responsibility of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Thank you.

**Record of discussion between the representatives of the Republic of Korea and  
the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)  
Tokyo, 12 May 1999**

Representatives of CCSBT and the Republic of Korea met to discuss issues relating to ROK's cooperation with the SBT management regime and in particular ROK's accession to the Convention. The List of Participants is shown at **Annex 1**.

The representatives of the Republic of the Korea responded to the talking points made by the representatives of CCSBT (**Annex 2**) as follows:

- i) The catch of SBT by Korea in 1998 exceeded 2,000 tonnes;
- ii) The Government of Korea had strong interests on the activities of CCSBT which was demonstrated by participating at CCSBT meetings as observers;
- iii) However, the fishing industry was facing a difficult situation and fishermen criticized the Government in relation to the new Korea-Japan Fisheries Agreement;
- iv) As mentioned at the last opportunity when the representatives of CCSBT visited Korea in April 1998, the Government had to introduce regulatory measures to control the licensed vessels in order to accede to the regional fisheries organization. However, the current situation made it difficult for the Government to do so.

The representatives of CCSBT reiterated the requests for Korea to meet its international obligation to accede to CCSBT and agree on a reasonable level of quota. In addition, they asked the representatives of Korea to convey to their Government the request to establish a timetable for the discussions on accession. The representatives advised them the CCSBT Secretariat would communicate with the Korean Government on this.

While noting the comments made by the representatives of CCSBT, Korea commented that 1) the Government was undertaking negotiations with the industry over the issue of quota, 2) the views of the Government and the industry were still different and the Government was trying to reach a resolution, 3) the timetable for consultation with CCSBT would depend on the progress in the Government consultation with industry and 4) the Government was concerned that it would become difficult to make progress if the Government did not have a good relationship with the industry.

Finally, the representative of CCSBT expressed their desire for a response by the Government of Korea on this issue.

**List of participants**

**CCSBT**

Mr Ryozo Kaminokado (Japan)  
Mr Masao Sugiyama (Japan)  
Dr Kevin Bray (Australia)  
Mr Paul Willis (New Zealand)

**Republic of Korea**

Mr Seung-Ho Kim  
Mr Kwang-Ryong Kim  
Mr Yoon-Joo Park  
Mr In-Keun Park  
Mr Hwa-Shin Lee

Taking points to Korea

1. CCSBT established by Australia, Japan and New Zealand, adopts annual total allowable catch (TAC) and national allocation for member states. CCSBT member states have made remarkable reduction on TAC and national allocation to around one third since 1988 for the purpose of recovering SBT stock.
2. However, Korea have increased SBT catch rapidly since 1996 and it was reported by Korea that catch in 1998 reached more than 2,000 MT. CCSBT members have grave concern about the negative impact of such large amount of SBT catch by Korea on the SBT stock.  
We draw Korea's attention to the clear international obligations to cooperate with CCSBT as the regional fisheries management organisation with competence for southern bluefin tuna.  
We would like you to take back our desire to establish a timetable for discussions on accession. We will ask the CCSBT Secretariat to follow up with Seoul directly.
3. CCSBT members make following request.
  - a) accede to CCSBT immediately
  - b) agree on a reasonable level of quota.

**CCSBT**  
**Record of Discussions between the Commission and Representatives of Taiwan**  
**Tokyo, 12 May 1999**

The Commission, represented by Mr Mark Edwards, Head of the New Zealand Delegation, welcomed the representatives from Taiwan and made the following points to the representatives:

- The Commission recognized that authorities in Taipei have had an association with the CCSBT for a number of years through attendance at meetings of the Commission and scientific committee as an observer;
- It also recognized the voluntary restraint that they had exercised on catch in recent years of 1450 tonnes per annum and reconfirmation of this at the Commission's meeting. It also acknowledged advice that they were willing to provide statistical data and participate in any trade information scheme;
- That said, given the low level of SBT parental biomass and the Commission's objective of restore SBT stock to 1980 levels by 2020, the Commission remained seriously concerned that catch outside Commission undermined the management measures adopted by the Commission members since the late 1980s;
- As a significant fisher of SBT the Commission would welcome their closer involvement in the work of the Commission to ensure that SBT was a sustainable and valuable fishery in the future;
- The Commission had noted their interest in becoming a full member of the Commission. However, the Convention did not allow for this. They would also be aware of the political reality of this situation; the parties were not in a position to have Taiwan accede to the Commission with member status;
- However, the Commission wished to conclude an arrangement that provided for their cooperation with and participation in the work of the Commission. This would include the privileges and responsibilities that would accrue to a co-operating party;
- The Commission was developing a mechanism that could provide for cooperation and would like to discuss this further in due course, including details such as the level of quota.

2 Representatives from Taiwan responded that they were aware of the difficulties associated with accession to the Convention. They noted their sincere desire to acquire membership of the Commission but, if difficulties associated with the Convention prevented this, they were prepared to respond in a flexible manner.



3 The representatives noted that mention had been made of "cooperating party" status and inquired as to the difference between this status and membership in terms of privileges and attendance at meetings. The representatives asked when the Commission might be able to make such further information available.

4 The representatives explained their position from the beginning had been that it was absolutely necessary for them to cooperate with the Commission. There was a strong hope that they would be treated in an equitable manner with other members within the framework of the Commission. The issue, from their perspective, was whether the status of "cooperating party" would provide such equitable treatment.

5 The Commission welcomed the positive response from the representatives and their willingness to discuss the issues and looked forward to a continuing dialogue. The Commission explained that it was unable to provide a firm date for further communications as the Commission was continuing to consider the issue, but reassured the representatives that it regarded this as an important and urgent issue and that further approaches would be made in the near future. The Commission acknowledged the desire for equitable participation in the Commission and was looking to provide the fullest possible involvement, with similar privileges and responsibilities to those of members. The Commission noted that it was grateful for the voluntary steps of cooperation that had been undertaken and appreciated the undertaking that such cooperation would be continued in the future.

6 A representative of the tuna industry, Mr Oh, then noted that, in the interests of the conservation and management of the resource, the industry had a strong desire to cooperate with the Commission and noted its strong hope that the Commission would take into account the balance between responsibilities and privileges.

7 The Commission thanked the industry for their comments and for their continuing cooperation. It noted that the industry shared the Commission's interest in the conservation and management of the stock and welcomed the industry's voluntary steps to assist in this objective.

8 The representatives expressed their thanks to the Commission and noted that they would convey the conversation to authorities in Taipei, who would look forward to receiving the Commission's proposal in the near future.

9 As the meeting closed, the Japanese delegate to the Commission, Kagawa-san, noted also that Japan appreciated the cooperation which had been extended in respect of scrapping excess fishing capacity and controlling the use of flag of convenience vessels and looked forward to continuing a bilateral dialogue on this issue.